FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMY MINISTERS MEET IN GUATEMALA

PA150011Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2333 GMT 13 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The economy ministers of Central America decided this afternoon to "declare themselves in "permanent session" due to the complexity of the problems now facing the region's Common Market. After 2 days of talks in Guatemala City at the fifth extraordinary conference, the economy ministers of the area decided to continue their talks in the next few days until they find a solution to the Central American crisis.

The economy ministers of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica--Valentin Solorzano, Roberto Ortiz Avalos, Carlos Manuel Zeron and Fernando Altmann, respectively--signed a declaration today in which they "reaffirm their decision to continue the regional talks to find ways to consolidate and improve the Central American Common Market." Nicaraguan Economy Minister Roger Blandon had suddenly walked out of the meeting a few hours earlier and returned to Managua without giving an explanation.

In a second declaration issued this afternoon, the ministers said that they had decided to consider a request made by the Costa Rican Government that it be permitted to change its present customs tariffs in order to eliminate the 30-percent surcharge on merchandise subject to the economic stabilization tax (San Jose protocol). Costa Rican Economy Minister Altmann said that this is necessary for his country to solve the present $29 million trade deficit with the other Central American countries.

As a result of the Costa Rican request, the economy ministers decided to call a meeting of their vice ministers, who will consider the request in the last 10 days of January and submit their recommendations to the ministers. The ministers will make a decision on the case within 30 days.

In addition to Costa Rica's desire to decrease the cost of its imports, another thorny subject at the conference was a request, also made by Costa Rica, that the land transportation of merchandise through Nicaragua be guaranteed. On this, Nicaraguan Economy Minister Blandon said that his government cannot guarantee that its border with Costa Rica will be permanently kept open because Costa Rica is being used by Sandinist guerrillas to stage attacks against Nicaragua.

Further on Meeting

PA150012Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1846 GMT 14 Jan 79 PA

[By Mauricio Barrera, of ACAN-EFE]

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Central American economy ministers failed here yesterday to solve the uncertainty of transporting merchandise through Nicaragua, which is obstructing the trade of the Central American Common Market [CACM]. Nicaraguan Economy Minister Roger Blandon said at the conference that his government cannot guarantee that its border with Costa Rica will be permanently open because Costa Rica is being used by the Sandinist guerrillas to stage attacks against Nicaragua.

Blandon left the permanent conference and returned to Managua without explanation and without giving satisfaction to his colleagues in the area, especially Costa Rica's Fernando Altmann, who had demanded guarantees from the Nicaraguan Government for the normal land passage of merchandise to the Central American market.

At the end of 2 days of talks at the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration [SIECA], the economy ministers issued a declaration in which they pointed out that "normal trade and inter-Central American transportation are indispensable for insuring the adequate operation of the free trade area and for facilitating a climate which will favor investment in each of its countries."

After conceding the "complexity" of the present Central American problems, the ministers resolved "to declare themselves in permanent session" in order to continue analyzing the situation at a future date.

The difficulty of transporting products from one country to another within the Central American area has become the overall problem of the Common Market, not just the case in Nicaragua. Salvadoran Economy Minister Roberto Ortiz Avalos said that his country still does not have an expeditious land route through Honduras, and that it must then go through Nicaragua.

Ortiz Avalos added that El Salvador has established a "ferry" service to Nicaragua and Costa Rica due to the impossibility of going through Honduras. He explained that the Honduran border with his country is not closed, but that the passage through Honduras for his countrymen is very bothersome and slow, which increases transportation costs and losses of perishable products.

Honduran Economy Minister Carlos Manuel Zeron said that his country will not fully rejoin the Central American integration process until his government signs a peace agreement with El Salvador.

In the midst of so many differences and disagreements, perhaps the only encouraging note at the conference came from Costa Rica's Altmann, who reaffirmed that his country will not withdraw from the CACM, thereby refuting a series of rumors which circulated in the area. However, Altmann said that Costa Rica is also dissatisfied with the present operation of the integration process because his country is running a $29 million deficit in its trade with the region. Altmann said that his country must eliminate the surcharges on its imports of electrical household appliances and agricultural supplies. This will be decided upon by the economy ministers within the next 30 days.

FECAMCO CALLS FOR MEETING TO IMPROVE CACM EFFECTIVENESS

PA140418Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 13 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] The directorate of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the Central American Isthmus [FECAMCO] has concluded its debates here in Panama by recommending to the area's governments that a meeting be held with the private investment sector in an attempt to save the Central American Common Market.

The CACM has been operating for the past 18 years, but as a result of the political developments that have taken place in the area, its effectiveness has been undermined.

Another of the major problems which was to have been discussed concerned the personal security of businessmen in Central America. However, due to the complexity of this topic, it was eliminated from the agenda.

The FECAMCO concluded its debates by urging the Central American governments to meet with the private investment sector as soon as possible in search of favorable solutions, Jose Diaz Seixas, president of this private organization, told this station. The meeting might be held here in Panama. Following is the interview that Diaz granted to this station:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Jose Diaz Seixas, could you explain to us the conclusions reached by the FECAMCO during its sessions here in our country?

[Answer] Yes, and thank you very much, Mr Hernandez, for this opportunity to discuss the conclusions reached by the FECAMCO at its meeting yesterday.

The main point set forth by the various groups present here concerned the CACM which, as you know, is one of the main things, if not the principal one, affecting the economic development of each of these countries. These countries represent markets with over 20 million consumers contained in this type of market under the agreements covering this area. [sentence as heard]

There have been problems regarding the CACM's development. These agreements have perhaps not been implemented in some of these countries in the way in which they were originally conceived--these were some of the points mentioned here at the meeting--and this has resulted in certain disruptions of trade, customs facilities and the fulfillment of commitments.

But yesterday we reached the conclusion that it is imperative to hold a meeting among the area's economy and finance ministers as well as the businessmen and industrialists. To this end, the Presidency of the FECAMCO, over which I am honored to preside, is mailing a number of letters to all of the Central American ministers today in which they will be notified of the conclusions reached by our organization, that it is imperative to hold this meeting shortly, say within 15 or 20 days at the most, probably here in Panama, which is the seat of the FECAMCO and the country promoting this meeting.

We would like to hold a joint meeting between the area's governments and the private sector in order to seek the necessary solutions so that the CACM can continue to exist and can stop operating in the ineffectual manner in which it has been operating.

If this meeting is held, we hope that we will be able to define all our necessities, to soften all rough spots derived from existing misunderstandings--because that is what they are, as I do not believe any ill will can be detected in the agreement's deficiencies--and to make the CACM, which has brought so many benefits to this area, continue operating effectively.

[Question] Finally, Mr Diaz Seixas, what value do you personally ascribe to this meeting promoted by the FECAMCO with the Central American governmental sector? Do you think this might contribute in any way to the improvement of the CACM's image, or would this represent the end of this Central American organization?

[Answer] Well, I do not think the purpose is to improve the CACM's image. What we are seeking is its effectiveness. I do believe that the meeting will represent a great contribution, and this is why we feel it is important to hold this meeting. We hope that the government sector will accept it.

The important thing about this meeting is that businessmen themselves are the ones who practically make the CACM operate because they are the ones who import, export and manufacture the merchandise. So what better ally can the government sector have than the private sector?

[Hernandez] Mr Jose Diaz Seixas, thank you very much for your statements for this station.

[Diaz] Thank you very much, Mr Hernandez. [end recording]

ENTIRE CABINET RESIGNS; PADILLA STUDYING SITUATION

Military Junta Meeting

FY160048Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0028 GMT 16 Jan 79 FY

[Text] The president of the government military junta held an important meeting with military chiefs at Miraflores garrison during the past few hours. It was learned after the meeting that a cabinet meeting will be held in the next few hours. Important details and possible changes may be decided during the meeting.

During the next few hours, the press department of Radio Panamericana will expand on this report, which, we repeat, may lead to a cabinet meeting within a few hours that will decide a very important political step.

Military Junta Resigns

FY160039Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0031 GMT 16 Jan 79 FY

[Text] La Paz, 15 Jan (AFP)--All members of the Bolivian Government military junta have presented their resignations to President David Padilla, causing the first cabinet crisis of the year.

Padilla, Military Chiefs Analyzing Situation

FY160102Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0049 GMT 16 Jan 79 FY

[Text] La Paz, 15 Jan (AFP)--Bolivian Labor Minister Col Vito Ramirez stated here tonight that there was no military pressure for the resignation of the entire military cabinet. Ramirez made this remark on leaving the Foreign Ministry, where an urgent extraordinary meeting was held by the majority of the resigning cabinet.

Gen David Padilla, the chief of state, immediately went to chief of staff headquarters as soon as he received the document with the resignations which the cabinet chief, Foreign Minister Raul Botelho, had handed him. Botelho is the only civilian in the cabinet which resigned today.

Padilla, with the military chiefs, is analyzing the situation created by the resignation of the ministers of his first cabinet.

Further on Cabinet Resignation

FY160135Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0115 GMT 16 Jan 79 FY

[Text] La Paz, 15 Jan (AFP)--Bolivian President Gen David Padilla is holding an urgent meeting tonight with high-ranking military commanders due to the resignation of the entire cabinet. The decision of the ministers, after being in office for 59 days, surprised all sectors of the country and has generated various types of speculation. There is tight official secrecy regarding the motives which prompted the resignations and also regarding the attitude Padilla will adopt in view of the resignation of his first cabinet.

The resignation was submitted to Padilla by Foreign Minister Raul Botelho, the only civilian in the cabinet, after an extraordinary cabinet meeting at the Foreign Ministry. Interior Minister Lt Col Raul Lopez Leyton, Planning Minister Lt Col Gary Prado and Campesino Affairs Minister Rolando Saravia were presumably under pressure to leave the cabinet.

However, Labor Minister Col Vito Ramirez, on leaving the meeting tonight in which it was agreed that they would resign, asserted: "There has been no military pressure to make the entire cabinet resign."

New Cabinet May Be Named 16 Jan

PY150247Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 16 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpt] It has been reported by government sources that tomorrow the president will consider the appointment of new ministers, and the prediction is that the new ministerial cabinet list will be ready by noon. The new cabinet will then function during the remaining period, which ends in July 1979. This report was released for Radio Cruz del Sur to (Raul Munoz) reporting from the Press Secretariat.

LOPEZ LEYTON ORDERS PROBE OF VILLA'S DEATH

PY121404Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Raul Lopez Leyton has asserted that there are no political prisoners and has also said that he had ordered a thorough investigation of the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of Gaston Villa Alverez. The investigation will be carried out because of accusations made by a Bolivian politician who asserted that it was not a question of suicide but political murder. [recorded passage indistinct]

FOREIGN MINISTER HOPES FOR RESUMPTION OF PARANA TALKS

PY160158Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2352 GMT 15 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 15 Jan (AFP)--Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira stated today that he is awaiting an Argentine initiative regarding the tripartite negotiations on the problems of the Corpus and Itaipu dams on the Parana River.

Recalling that Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos Pastor had remarked that this initiative would be formulated at the opportune time, Da Silveira indicated that he would like this matter to be resolved before the end of Gen Ernesto Geisel's tenure on 15 March. If this cannot be, "we will try to advance as much as possible so the problem can be quickly resolved by my successor" (Saraiva Guerreiro), he added.

According to Brazilian diplomatic circles, the recent relaxing of tension between Argentina and Chile regarding the Beagle Channel will permit a quick resumption of the negotiations between Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay on the hydroelectric exploitation of the Parana River.

AZEREDO ON RELATIONS WITH U.S., FUTURE FOREIGN POLICY

PY131149Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Jan 79 p 4 PY

[Press conference with Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira after meeting with General Figueiredo in Brasilia on 10 January]

[Excerpts] [Question] Minister, did General Figueiredo indicate the foreign policy line he will follow during his government? Will there be continuity with the current policy?

[Answer] I think he had said that several times. For example, at the graduation of new diplomats in April, he made a statement on this subject for the first time. I was not near him and I did not hear him make that statement. I only read about it in the newspapers. I think he never said anything which could be understood as being contrary to the foreign policy. He will favor continuation of the current foreign policy.

[Question] With all the information you have, is it possible for you to make some predictions on future U.S.-Brazilian relations during General Figueiredo's government?

[Answer] We have never damaged that relationship. The United States is an important country and only an underdeveloped country can think that it is always wrong. And it is the worst kind of underdevelopment because it is psychological. I think we had excellent relations with the United States in 1974, 75 and 76. They were so good that I was accused of being excessively friendly with Kissinger. But they were mature, correct relations. Brazil has been respected because of its importance. There has been no subordination, and I think that the United States must want nothing else because we have a memorandum of understanding: The United States profits while we only [maintain a high status] in areas where we operate--Brazil is a Latin American country and also of the Third World, and a country closely tied to Western Europe. Now the United States is interested only in countries which represent something in those areas. A country which does not represent anything is not of interest to anyone. I feel that at certain points during the U.S. presidential campaign there had been attacks on Brazil, some very strong. And there had been some warnings, but not to underrate Brazil or to make us think that Brazil was less important. It was that crazy idea the Latin America goes wherever Brazil goes. This is a gross simplification of the story that we are capable of changing the situation of an important Latin American country. This is mere foolishness. [paragraph continues]

It involves transferring responsibility. It is very nice to say that Brazil is responsible for things in Latin America, while the others are exerting pressure.

[Question] In one of your answers you talked about the development of foreign policy with the United States. Isn't that term being used erroneously, considering what you explained just now?

[Answer] No. I think relations are improving, considering that there has been a low point in relations, but then--I will give you an example to clarify this--one of the things which they [apparently other Latin American countries] used to criticize was that the United States signed a memorandum of understanding with us recognizing us as a political equal since material equality does not exist (Brazil does not have the military or economic power of the United States), but it did recognize us as an equal. I was very careful in negotiating that understanding because, if it were not negotiated properly, it would have become just another agreement of dependency. It depended very much on the form of negotiation. Later, during the campaign, they denied it and said that the signing of that memorandum of understanding by the secretary of state was the worst example of bad diplomacy. When the new government was installed, we disengaged ourselves from that memorandum of understanding. We had said that it is valid for us because we do not sign any paper hastily, but that there is no treaty, no agreement, and that if the United States does not want to continue with that mechanism, it does not need to do so. Then they began saying that the memorandum was valid, but I did not implement it until I received written evidence of that statement. Now it is functioning well. Now, in November, for example, the U.S. planning group, which is quite large, came here, talked to us and talked about foreign policy as we do every 6 months.

[Question] And the nuclear agreement?

[Answer] The nuclear agreement will never change. People talk about it, but it will not change. I have always regarded it as an irreversible issue. I am the grandson and son of a politician and therefore I think that people who dislike politicians have no feelings. I do not disdain the political class and the persons who think otherwise do not know the importance of politicians for the country. I also think that the Congressional Investigative Committee will achieve a very positive result because papers which are not really Brazilian papers are coming into the hands of that committee. I also trust and have confidence in the performance of the opposition. The opposition voted unanimously for the nuclear agreement and I cannot say that it is irresponsible. On the contrary.

AMBASSADOR DENIES INVITING VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT TO PRC

PY160204Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Jan 79 p 2 PY

[Summary] The PRC ambassador to Brazil, Chang Te-chun, clarified yesterday that he has made neither an official nor an informal invitation to Brazilian Vice President-elect Aureliano Chaves to visit Peking. This clarification was necessary in view of recent newspaper reports that such an invitation had been extended.

CNEN REPORTS ON ESTIMATES OF URANIUM RESERVES

PY151715Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Jan 79 p 32 PY

[Text] In the last 8 years Brazilian Nuclear Corporations [NUCLEBRAS] has invested 1.1 billion cruzeiros in search of uranium--940 million cruzeiros during the past 4 years. [paragraph continues]

With the current uranium reserves (77,000 tons already measured and another 142,000 tons being measured and estimated), experts of NUCLEBRAS and the National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN] believe that a total of 1 million tons might be available by 1985 and that Brazil will then become one of the world's largest uranium producers.

Those figures are revealed in a study presented by CNEN to the Superior War College. The study also indicates that the production of yellow cake in Pocos de Caldas will amount to 500 tons this year from reserves of 20,000 tons of U_3O_8. The cost of mining in Brazil is 17 cruzeiros per kilogram of uranium cake, less than $1, as compared with 56 per kilogram for concentrated uranium from U.S. reserves, according to studies by CNEN.

Investments in uranium prospecting have been substantially increased, thanks to a 1-percent tax on lubricants. Funds for mineral prospecting increased from 6 million cruzeiros to 23 million in 1970 and proceeded to increase successively to 38 million cruzeiros in 1971; 46.5 million in 1972; 57.6 million in 1973; 64.0 in 1974, 132 million in 1975; 237.5 million in 1976; 295.6 million in 1977; and 286 million in 1978. [figures as published]

Interest turned toward the Pocos de Caldas plateau in 1952 when uranium-rich masses of caldasite containing zirconium were found there for the first time, although their commercial value was nil. Proceeding with [illegible] prospecting, geologists of CNEN guided their search to other types of uranium-bearing minerals and thus discovered amorphous uranium oxide deposits, associated with pyrite and molybdenum in a subvertical and horizontal lense-shaped medium.

The most important of those findings is located today at Osamu Utsumi mine, named for the geologist who did the pioneering work. The deposits of caitite running through the Sao Francisco River and the Real Lake, in Bahia State, were discovered also, in addition to the Figueira deposits in Parana State and the Amorinopolis deposits in southwest Goias State, containing large mineralized masses with average uranium content below normal standards, but which might still become economically exploitable.

According to CNEN, when international uranium prices reach high levels which current trends seem to indicate, low content-large tonnage deposits might become economically viable. In view of this, several uranium deposits, associated with other elements, are under study and their tonnage is being estimated.

U.S. PRIEST CLAIMS BEATING BY RECIFE POLICE

PY151647Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Jan 79 p 17 PY

[Excerpt] Recife--U.S. Priest Lawrence Rosebaugh has charged that he was beaten by two policemen when on Thursday evening he tried to stop two soldiers from beating and arresting a beggar in the Largo do Mercado de Sao Jose area in downtown Recife. Col Sergio Torres, commander of the military police, has ordered an investigation into the case. He adds that he will punish the policemen, even with expulsion from the force if necessary.

Rosebaugh and Thomas Capuano, a U.S. Mennonite missionary, were detained in May 1977 by the theft and larceny department, where they remained incommunicado for 3 days. When they were released, the denounced their mistreatment in prison.

PRC AMBASSADOR, CUBILLOS DISCUSS INVASION OF KAMPUCHEA

PY152117Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 15 Jan 79 PY

[Text] The PRC ambassador has held a meeting with Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos. Ambassador Hu Cheng-fang and Foreign Minister Cubillos discussed the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea. Ambassador Hu Cheng-fang noted that he informed Cubillos of the situation in Southeast Asia. He also suggested how (?Chile) and the PRC can (?together) confront this situation at the United Nations. He added, furthermore, that his country would [word indistinct] the withdrawal of all invading Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea. He noted that he believes the evacuation of [words indistinct] from Kampuchea is not a defeat but, on the contrary, is the beginning of defeat for the invading Vietnamese troops.

GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS DIALOG WITH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

PY130207Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0159 GMT 13 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 12 Jan (AFP)--The Chilean Government today interrupted its dialog with important union organizations which oppose its labor policy by noting that these organizations have assumed an attitude hindering official efforts to reestablish a all union freedoms within 6 months. Labor Minister Jose Pinera stated in a communique that this is the main reason for the cancellation of a meeting he was supposed to hold yesterday with Eduardo Rios, maritime workers leader and president of the so-called "Group of 10," which is a union group opposing government labor plans.

Pinera said that between the time of a previous meeting and the one scheduled for yesterday, Rios had termed the "labor plan" of the government "gangrenous" and announced that he would call a meeting for next Sunday of those unions he leads. The labor minister added that with this, Rios assumed "an openly challenging attitude against the government in general."

In view of this rupture, the "Group of 10," which among other unions represents maritime and railroad workers and government and private employees, suspended the meeting scheduled for Sunday which was to be held in a stadium. Furthermore, the group termed as "inflexible" the labor minister's attitude.

Since the beginning of December, the military regime has been holding talks with various union sectors with the objective of enforcing a new union institutionality. Pinera noted that the dialog will continue and will end with the approval of a new law which will regulate union activities in Chile and which, according to the labor minister, will be issued before 30 June 1979.

In a communique issued to the mass media, Pinera notes: "The government will not be led into any situation which has been artificially created by motives completely opposed to the success and development of the labor plan, which it will continue to promote in a dynamic and decisive manner with the goal of intensifying the participation of all sectors directly concerned in the issue." He added that the open spirit of the government "is not compatible with the obstructionist attitude which a small group of union leaders is displaying, thus showing that their motives are apparently outside the realm of genuine labor objectives.

'INACCURATE' REPORTS ON ARMY INVESTIGATIONS REJECTED

PA132319Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Jan 79 PA

[Communique issued by the Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic on 13 January 1979--read by newsperson Carmen Santiago of the San Carlos press office]

[Text] The Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic announces that persons seeking to misguide the national public have been broadcasting inaccurate rumors and unfounded and biased reports for the purpose of misdirecting the investigations being carried out by the competent authorities regarding the theft of national army weapons and in an obvious attempt to downplay the gravity of the deed.

At the same time, an attempt is underway to give the impression that an impossible persecution has been unleashed against labor leaders. To this end, in cities such as Bogota, Cartagena, Bucaramanga and Barrancabermeja, among others, a bulletin dated 10 January and attributed to Jorge (Sastos), president of the central USO [Workers Labor Union], is being distributed. It reports the arrest of labor leaders Jaime Castilla, Orlando Jaime, Miguel Arciniega, Carlos Munos and Rafael Gomez precisely at a time when discussion was initiated regarding the list of demands presented by the labor union of ECOPETROL [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise].

The truth is that none of these people have been arrested. In addition, the government has been receiving from various organizations messages which give the impression that they are the result of a previously agreed upon circular and which request the release of persons convicted by competent judges and of other persons who are under arrest on charges of being implicated in the theft of national army weapons.

In addition, these messages demand the release of persons who were released after their situation had been clarified for the benefit of the courts.

In Colombia, freedom of association is guaranteed by the national constitution and is duly protected by the authorities. No person will be subject, under this government, to a restriction of his liberties or a curtailment of his rights because he belongs to any organization which does not seek to violate the law. Likewise, no entity or association has the privilege to commit crimes and certainly not to subvert public order. Those who participate in criminal acts must answer to the courts and are liable to the respective sanctions.

The government feels that--within its obligation to conserve public order throughout the national territory and to restore it wherever it is disrupted--it must act within the constitution, with serenity and honesty. For this reason, it is authorized to make concessions to the subversives [as heard--in a subsequent 1-minute summary of the communique, the radio announcer says that the government is "not authorized" to make concessions to the subversives], since it has the unavoidable duty of protecting the lives, honor and property of all persons while defending the juridical and democratic institutions.

The present administration guarantees human rights and states that [words indistinct]. The state of siege was not decreed by this government, but dates from times past. In these circumstances, the spirit and letter of the constitution have been respected. [passage indistinct] The government feels certain that the public, which does not want chaos and anarchy to prevail in the country, understands that the government's conduct reflects the need to prevent the breakdown of republican institutions and that it cannot act otherwise when an attempt is being made to trample upon public freedoms and to destroy democracy.

ARMY RAIDS CALI RESIDENCES, RECOVERS STOLEN WEAPONS

PA160207Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The national army located two tunnels in two residences in Cali today and found in one of them some of the firearms that were recently stolen from the Military Institutes Brigade in Bogota. The report from the San Carlos Palace said that eight persons were arrested during the operation. The report added that even the eyeglasses of General Fonseca, which had been stolen during a 19 April Movement, M-19, action in Cali, were also recovered. The report revealed that with today's raids, some 100 weapons, including those found in Bucaramanga recently, have been recovered.

NEW MEASURES AGAINST SUBVERSION, KIDNAPING ANNOUNCED

PA121709Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The national government has announced new measures to prevent subversion and kidnaping. Following a regular cabinet meeting, the office of information of the presidency issued a communique threatening subverters and kidnapers with imprisonment in Gorgona Prison.

The announcement establishes that anyone found guilty of subversion, rebellion, sedition, support of crime, vehicular theft, and association with an encouragement to crime will be sent to the Gorgona Island Prison. The government considers the Gorgona Island Prison the country's most secure.

GOVERNMENT WARNS SPECULATORS ON UNSCRUPULOUS PRACTICES

PA121710Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The national government last night announced the institutional mechanism to combat scarcity. The executive branch considers that the wave of scarcity was caused largely by the excessive ambition for wealth of unscrupulous merchants. Consequently, the government decided to create a high-level national committee, headed by the government and labor ministers, which will plan new control strategies and new sanctions against speculators and hoarders.

WORKERS URGE BOYCOTT TO PROTEST PRICE INCREASES

PA121923Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1506 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 12 Jan (EFE)--Colombia workers today "vigorously and decisively" condemned the recent increases in prices of staples and transport fares. The Confederation of Workers of Colombia (CTC) asked affiliated unions to boycott staples when the price is considered excessive.

A CTC spokesman reported that the Executive Committee had asked the government immediately to adopt drastic measures against speculation and hoarding. The source said that to guarantee the success of the boycott, the CTC will obstruct through its port affiliates exports of essential products including rice, bananas and sugar.

The government recently asked the country's mayors to establish committees to counter speculation and prevent excessive increases in basic necessities which considerably affect family budgets.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY REQUESTS PRISONERS' RELEASE

PA122154Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1719 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 12 Jan (AFP)--The Peruvian Constituent Assembly asked today for the release of all persons arrested during the unsuccessful 3-day general strike called this week by the left and the extreme left. The petition was presented by the assembly's Human Rights Violation Investigation Commission. Lucio Galarza, the commission's chairman, met with Victor Rodriguez, chief inspector of the investigation police.

Rodriguez said that orders have been issued to release the detained persons, some of whom are already in their homes. Galarza asked that the release of those persons whose release is still pending be hastened.

Galarza also said that the commission ascertained that some 90 persons were imprisoned in four small rooms in a police precinct. Among those persons were Alfonso Barrantes, chairman of the extreme leftist Popular Democratic Unity, and Gustavo Espinosa, former secretary general of the Communist Labor Central.

Finally, Galarza asked the police to issue certificates to those workers who were arrested so that they will not be dismissed from their jobs.

POLICE RETURN OCCUPIED PCP OFFICES

PA121200Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0035 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 11 Jan (AFP)--The orthodox Peruvian Communist Party [PCP] announced today that the state security police returned this morning the party offices they had occupied yesterday, Wednesday, in the downtown sector of Lima. The PCP, the secretary general of which is Jorge del Prado, yesterday protested against the "brutal aggression" and demanded the release of prisoners, the reopening of the closed magazines and the reestablishment of constitutional guarantees.

PPC WANTS CIVILIAN CABINET APPOINTED

PA131200Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0254 GMT 13 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 12 Jan (EFE)--The conservative Popular Christian Party (PPC), the second most important electoral force in the country, has posed the need to form a civilian cabinet to replace the military in several portfolios. Deputy Celso Sotomarino made this proposal today on behalf of his party in the Lima magazine OPINION LIBRE.

Sotomarino said that the military government cannot tackle the socioeconomic crisis that Peru is currently experiencing without specialists.

Of the 12 Peruvian ministries only 2, the Economy and Foreign Affairs ministries, have civilian ministers. There are also about 20 directorates whose heads rank as ministers and are militarymen. The PPC wants civilian ministers to be appointed to the portfolios that are directly related to production and services such as transportation and communications, as well as in the organizations that make them up.

(?PPC) representatives also criticized the proliferation and doubling of functions of several ministries and executive departments created under Gen Juan Velasco Alvarado's regime.

The PPC, which drew the second largest number of votes after the majority Aprist Party in the Constituent Assembly elections in June 1978, also wants an "emergency plan" to be formulated until the general elections are called. [sentence as received]

ECONOMY MINISTER REPORTS SURPASSING OF 1978 GOALS

PY131915Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Javier Silva Ruete has stated his and the government's recognition of the willing and serene manner in which workers, employers and the political, social and democratic forces recently rejected the incitement to paralyze the country launched by a group of extremist leaders. Silva Ruete said that all those sectors had contributed, through their positive conduct which led to the failure of the attempt to paralyze the country, to the national objective of speedily reactivating the economy of the country, which will be the basic, [word indistinct] and stable support for another great national objective: the democratic transfer of power.

In the concluding part of his speech, after having outlined the achievements during the 180 days since the economic plan was applied, the main characteristics of the budget for 1979 and the economic prospects of the country, Silva Ruete repeated his appeal for cooperation and unity by all sectors. The minister made this appeal on behalf of the armed forces revolutionary government, stating that the effort means a commitment by all sectors of the immense majority of Peruvians, the democratic political forces and the social, labor and managerial sectors of the country.

The economic plan which is in effect has permitted the reaching of all the goals for 31 December 1978 and even the surpassing of them, Economy and Finance Minister Javier Silva Ruete asserted yesterday in his speech. He gave figures showing the changing development of the criticial situation which existed before the application of the plan in key areas, such as exports, trade balance, international reserves, fiscal deficit, public and private credit, inflation, [words indistinct] and public expenditures.

Exports, for example, reached a total of $1,725,000,000 in 1977; the plan anticipated reaching the goal of $1,829,000,000 by 31 December 1978. This goal was surpassed, with exports totaling $1.9 billion.

The plan also permitted an adjustment and reduction of the depletion of the net foreign reserves of the country at the disposal of the [words indistinct]; that is, the Peruvian Central Reserve Bank.

The general budget of the republic for 1979 and the packet of economic measures, some already taken and others which will be taken in the future, set a course and establish very clear and precise objectives for the economic management of the country during this year, the economy and finance minister said yesterday. Silva Ruete said that the budget is the basic instrument of the state for guiding, directing and stimulating the nation's economy, but that other measures are required which take into account important factors supporting it, such as business drive and private investment, both domestic and foreign.

In this connection, he said that it is the government's intention to increase credit in the private sector to 79.5 billion soles in 1979 and public credit to 79.5 billion soles [as heard], at the same time reducing the inflation rate, which is really the most serious scourge of the country.

RADIO HAVANA INTERVIEWS PSR LEADER

PA142029Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Jan 79 PA

[Interview with retired Gen Leonidas Rodriguez, president of the Peruvian Socialist Revolutionary Party, in Havana; date not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] General Rodriguez, we would like to hear your opinion about the current situation in Peru. We also want you to tell us about the Socialist Revolutionary Party [PSR] of Peru, which you head.

[Answer] Since the revolutionary process launched by the armed forces under the leadership of General Velasco, which began on 3 October 1968 and ended in 1975 when General Morales rose to power, many things have happened to Peru. First, many of the structural changes benefiting the people have been dismantled. As everybody obviously knows, this was followed by a worldwide capitalist crisis that has severely affected Peru and all of the underdeveloped peoples of the capitalist world. As a result, the economic models for problem-solving in Latin America in general and Peru in particular have further aggravated the poverty of our people. Consequently, nationwide strikes have been staged, and a number of problems have arisen, resulting in the decision by our present rulers to transfer power to civilians.

The timetable for the transfer of power recognizes the need to amend the constitution. Thus, elections were called to elect a Constituent Assembly. These elections took place at the beginning of last year and the Constituent Assembly has been functioning since July. It will probably complete its work during May or June of this year and promulgate a new constitution.

This implies several things. The first is that, in effect, a new constitution is being drafted. (?It was necessary in Peru). However, from a revolutionary standpoint, we believe that one does not wage a revolution by means of a fundamental law like the constitution. When a revolution takes place, it is actually institutionalized through a constitution after it is carried out or waged.

In a nutshell, we do not believe--in view of the composition of the Congress, which has a rightist majority--that we will be able to draft a constitution that will open the path toward Peruvian socialism. In any event, we, the leftist forces, are struggling to attain a progressive constitution that, above all, will defend individual and labor rights in Peru and our country's sovereignty. This is our position.

Another important point is that, for the first time in Peru, the leftist forces garnered 34 percent of the votes. This is very significant if one bears in mind the percentage with which leftist groups reach power in elections. Undoubtedly, there was the problem that the voting (?favored) certain rightwing and leftwing parties, and we did not manage [word indistinct]. However, this showed us that in the future we must commit ourselves to uniting the Peruvian leftwing. We believe that in future events the unification of the Peruvian left will take place, to a greater or lesser degree, because historically speaking, it would be risky for any leftist group not to seriously work to unite. We are doing this at the level of the members of the Constituent Assembly and, above all, at the level of the rank and file, which is where I think the unification of the left would be most effective.

In summary, the events taking place now in Peru seem to indicate that the right would reach power through the political parties. The rightwing is indeed on a unification path and also has great support from the local and foreign power groups in its political campaign.

Consequently, in this sense, the leftwing is at a disadvantage in traditional elections.

At any rate, we find these political events along our path and we must participate because this is a (?tangential) way of solving the people's problems.

As far as the PSR is concerned, it is a new, very young party, as you know. It was only 2 years old on 3 November 1978. Therefore, this party cannot be expected to have a very solid structure throughout the country in view of its very short life span. The organization of a party involves long work. However, the important thing is that within 2 years our party has made great progress. Even in the last elections our party obtained 7 percent, having run in the election only 18 months after its birth. This shows that the party will grow in the next few years.

In addition, the party has also held a national congress at which its platform, political line and bylaws were formally established.

Generally speaking, the PSR ranks include peasants, workers, inhabitants of youngtowns [pueblos jovenes] inmumerable unemployed people, white collar workers, progressive professionals and intellectuals. We believe that the PSR presents a real option for power in view of this composition. Furthermore, the party has been organized as an option for power. Otherwise, many of us would not have become active in it.

We feel that the future of the PSR is (?bright). We also think that we will not cease being at the frontline in our people's struggle for redress, and that we will always be at the frontline in the struggle for the construction of Peruvian socialism.

PERUVIAN, FRENCH NAVY UNITS CONDUCT JOINT MANEUVERS

PA151834Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 15 Jan (AFP)--It was announced here today that French and Peruvian naval units will stage 24-hour maneuvers off the coasts of Callao, the country's main port, beginning today.

The helicopter carrier "Jeanne d'Arc" and its escort ship "Forbin" of the French Navy will participate in the exercises. The two ships are ending an official visit to Peru today.

It was learned from an unofficial source today that the Peruvian Navy will be represented in the joint maneuvers by a cruiser, two destroyers and two submarines.

Following the maneuvers, which will consist of antisubmarine warfare exercises, the two French ships will leave for Tahiti, continuing a training cruise for new French officers.

FRAMPO REQUESTS REDUCTION OF MEMBERSHIP QUOTA

PA151654Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Jan 79 pp 1, 18 PA

[Text] A total of 800 People's Broad Front Party (FRAMPO) leaders from all provinces of the country on Saturday reiterated the party's decision to register, whatever the number of members required. During its third plenary session, FRAMPO also unanimously agreed to ask the National Legislation Council to amend Article 23 of Law 81 of 5 October 1978 to establish 20,000 as the number of members required for each party in order to be recognized as such.

The People's Broad Front Party has been accusing a minority in the government and certain opposition sectors of obstructing the democratization process proposed by General Torrijos when he was chief of government. FRAMPO says that a minority in the government is not only against reducing the number of required party members, which at present is 30,000, but is suggesting that the number be increased to 40,000 or 50,000, with the idea of preventing an exaggerated number of parties.

In reply to the constitutionality suit filed by FRAMPO against the 30,000 quota, Attorney General Olmedo Miranda said that the 30,000 quota would allow the formation of at least 26 parties. In this manner he expressed his opposition to reducing the number of party members to 20,000 as FRAMPO had requested of the Supreme Court of Justice.

Meanwhile, the People's Party, the Agrarian Labor Party and the Republican Party yesterday publicly expressed their opposition to the 30,000 quota. These parties consider the quota excessive. They think it will lead to single-party or two-party democracy, to which they are opposed.

In its third plenary session, FRAMPO approved an open letter asking the National Legislation Council to exercise its constitutional rights and, attentive to the opinion of the country's political majority, to amend Article 23 of the electoral law of October 1978 by reducing the number of party members required to 20,000.

In its letter, FRAMPO says that the number of party members required at present will hamper the formation of political parties from opinion sectors and that, without their participation, it will be impossible to have the true democracy of broad participation that Gen Omar Torrijos suggested.

In statements made during FRAMPO's third plenary session, Renato Pereira and Juan Manuel Castulovich harshly criticized what they called the "recalcitrant opposition." According to FRAMPO's main leaders, the opposition's refusal to register their political parties is part of a strategy to make believe that we are living under an absolute and strong dictatorship in Panama and to create a political vacuum for President Royo's government on the domestic and international level. In this way, it will promote the belief that the only alternative for a change in power in Panama is a violent confrontation closing the paths of democracy.

FRAMPO members also consider that there is a minority in the government which, by not seeing this strategy of the opposition, is playing its game by suggesting that the quota be increased so that the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) would be the only party.

LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS TO DISCUSS 'FASCIST THREAT'

PA151203Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 13 Jan 79 pp 1, 19 PA

[Text] Leftist and social organizations with various tactical positions agreed at a meeting held yesterday to debate what has been labeled as the "fascist threat," referring to the last demonstration held by the "God and Panama" movement several days ago.

Several independent labor organizations, the National Central of Panamanian Workers, the Federation of Panamanian Students, the Guaykucho-Nir political movement, the Center of Law Students of the University of Panama, the University Anti-Imperialist Front, the Revolutionary Socialist League and other social groups, as well as the National Federation of Peasant Settlements, agreed to meet again at the University of Panama at 1100 on Monday to continue studying the action plan.

A source told CRITICA that it was agreed to hold a public rally in Porras Park at 1630 on Wednesday. The names of the speakers were not announced, but it was said that they will be from various organizations seeking unity.

COLUMNIST LASHES AT 'GOD AND PANAMA' MOVEMENT

PA151324Y Panama City DOMINICAL in Spanish 14 Jan 79 p 4-A PA

["Macheteando" column by Mario Augusto Rodriguez "Anticommunist Violence"]

[Excerpts] 1. Rightwing Extremism

Rightwing Extremism, which for several years now has been expressing itself in several developed and developing countries, seems to have penetrated Panama. It is evident that the self-styled "God and Panama" movement--which openly violates Article 124 of the national constitution by adopting religion as its basis--is the projection of an international movement created and financed by powerful international consortiums. Such a movement has been active for several years in Brazil and Uruguay, in Argentina and Chile, in Guatemala and the United States, and has its origins in several European countries. Investigations of this movement so far seem to indicate that its most remote origin is among groups that managed to survive clandestinely after Nazi fascism was defeated in Germany and Italy.

2. Strategy

The strategy of rightwing extremism is terror, chaos and violence. Its tactic is creating discord and disorder in order to stimulate reaction by the great democratic majorities and subsequent intervention by the authorities.

3. Intolerance

Extreme and blind intolerance constitute the characteristics of rightwing violence. For the right, the only truth possible is that which corresponds to its interests, its customs, its ambitions and its selfish desires. Rightwingers speak often of "democracy," but to them democracy is only and exclusively that which is framed within their own doctrinaire philosophical concept.

4. Right

Regardless of how extreme they may be, I recognize the rightwingers' right to express and defend their ideas. I feel that because of their very social, economic and intellectual condition, they have sufficient resources to propagate their ideas and fight those that oppose them. For this reason, I do not understand their need to resort to painting walls, throwing stones and carrying out other acts of violence and terrorism which can only be explained--but never justified--in the case of those who lack the means or the inherent ability to reason logically. And I conclude that this strategy by the extreme right can have no other intention than that of eliciting reactions leading to the dictatorial imposition of force.

COSTA RICA

FORMER PRESIDENT ODUBER VOWS TO FIGHT CARAZO'S POLICIES

PA151408Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Former President Daniel Oduber said yesterday at the end of an assembly of the National Liberation Party [PLN] that his party has adopted a more forceful position. Following this assembly the PLN will act more forcefully to combat the current policies of the Carazo administration, which is keeping the country in a state of crisis.

Oduber explained that PLN policies such as the reduction of interest and tariffs, articles of the forestry law and strong defense of consumers through the consumer protection law will be projects in which PLN will support the government because they are PLN policies. But, many of this administration's programs, which experience has shown to have poor results, will be rejected, Oduber said. We are going to fight Carazo, he added.

EL SALVADOR

LEFTIST GROUPS OCCUPY FARM, DETONATE EXPLOSIVES

PA152336Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2059 GMT 15 Jan 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--It was learned in San Salvador today that several leftist groups occupied the "Chanmico" farm, located 43 km northwest of the capital, yesterday. According to unofficial reports, the persons who occupied the farm, identified as members of the United Popular Action Front, detonated explosives which caused serious damage to the home of Klauss Rittman and Simon Mejia Torres. The latter is a member of the Nationalist Democratic Organization, a decidedly anticommunist, progovernment entity. No victims were reported. The attackers distributed leaflets calling for insurrection.

GUATEMALA

AGRICULTURE MINISTER ON NICARAGUA'S CONTROL OF COFFEE RUST

PA152331Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2150 GMT 15 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala, 15 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan Agriculture Minister Edgar Ponciano said today, Monday, that Nicaragua has been successful in controlling the coffee rust disease which has been affecting its coffee plantations. Ponciano said that the Nicaraguan authorities have been able to confine the disease to the Chinandega area, preventing it from spreading to the rest of the Central American nations, which depend heavily on their coffee exports. Ponciano added that the quarantine measures set up by the Central American countries for the same purpose have been equally successful.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL--The Foreign Ministry has appointed Col Ramiro Pereda Austurias as the new Guatemalan ambassador to Israel. He replaces Juan Jose Arevalo Bermejo, who resigned on 31 December 1978. [Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA]

HONDURAS

TIEMPO COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN ELECTIONS

PA130406Y San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Jan 79 p 6 PA

[Editorial: "Political Activity Is in the Forefront"]

[Excerpts] Only when institutionality is very deeply rooted is it very easy to hold free elections in accordance with the democratic principles. But if what one wishes to do is to go from a weak institutional system to an organized and advanced political life, then the difficulties that arise are numerous and very serious.

The government, along with the political parties and however many forces which participate in one way or another in the country's politics, are the organizers of the electoral process.

It is for this reason that the quality of the government, that is to say, the quality of its politics, constitutes an essential factor in determining whether or not free elections are to be held.

Today, after its many political experiences, Honduras once again feels uncertain about freely exercising its right to choose.

If at present there is some hint of political unity, it is not in a way that would be conducive to making elections more decent. It is not based on the government's impartiality but, rather, on its participation in favor of one of the militant factions.

On the other side, on the side of the opposition interested in a free election, there is not a sufficiently strong unity of action to force the government to treat all political parties equally or to allow the new parties to participate fully regarding their right to hold public posts at all levels of the government.

The government is the key element in defining the type of elections that will be held in April 1980. This does not mean that the political organizations, the citizens in general and the nonpolitical groups are not responsible as well for the conduct of the electoral process.

But the guarantees needed to hold a free election are the responsibility of the government and of the ruling forces--to which one of the political factions is now being added.

It is true that all governments seek to prolong themselves either directly or indirectly. Even constitutional governments, when they do not have a political party of their own, seek to make secret alliances with some political organization in order to insure this result. In those cases, the ruling sector supplies the force while the allied group provides the people who can vote.

There was the belief that this manner of mocking popular sovereignty and of setting up reactionary governments belonged to the past, something that had to be regarded as politically buried before establishing a regime that would be not only legal but also committed to national development.

Under the present circumstances, this challenge to the popular sovereignty and to the equality of the political organizations' rights constitutes a very serious matter which obliges the affected factions to adopt a policy in accordance with those circumstances in order not to become direct or indirect accomplices of this fraudulent mockery of the popular sovereignty.

NICARAGUA

MILITARY VIGILANCE INCREASED IN MANAGUA, OUTLYING AREAS

PA160355Y Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0030 GMT 16 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The Managua police headquarters has instituted new extreme vigilance operations in Managua and its outlying areas beginning this week. The operations will be carried out by several Nicaraguan National Guard organizations working jointly with police patrols.

The terrorists were active over the past weekend but the authorities were able to neutralize several criminal attacks by these persons, attacks aimed exclusively at sowing terror, killing and robbing. The National Guard authorities will not decrease vigilance activities. To the contrary, they will increase them to insure the citizens' peace and tranquillity.

U.S. CITIZEN TO BE DEPORTED FOR SUBVERTING PUBLIC ORDER

PA160353Y Managua Estacion X in Spanish 0030 GMT 16 Jan 79 PA

[Text] American citizen Patricia Mulligan (Benard) was scheduled to be deported to her country today. She was arrested by order of the Managua police authorities while subverting public order. Mexican citizen Luisa Carrasquilla Escoto might also be deported to her country of origin. Carrasquilla Escoto is a psychology student at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua. Both young women have been interfering in political matters, and foreigners are prohibited from doing this by the laws of the republic. Mexican Embassy personnel in Nicaragua were trying today to obtain the release of Miss Carrasquilla Escoto.

VIOLENCE REMAINS KEYNOTE OF EVENTS OVER WEEKEND

PA151937Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1804 GMT 15 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 15 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Robberies, raids, attacks on military patrols, shootouts and kidnapings continued to set the tone of reports from Nicaragua over the weekend. At least five persons were killed and four injured. Brigades, presumed to be Sandinists, staged a series of actions in this capital and in the interior of the country as part of their tactic of continued harassment of Gen Anastasio Somoza's army.

Three armed guerrillas entered the residence of National Guardsman Jorge Ramirez in eastern Managua during his absence and stole a revolver and military clothing.

In another Sandinist action five masked youths armed with revolvers kidnaped Manuel Khul, an executive of the Datsun Company. They later took him to the Datsun outlet, where they stole a station wagon and took weapons from the company's guards.

Another rebel cell, consisting of 15 members, last night raided the bus terminal of the Transportes Urbanos firm in the southeastern part of the capital and set fire to the facilities, which are presumably owned by a militaryman. One bus was totally destroyed, while firemen saved four others which were partially damaged. As they fled in a vehicle, the attackers wounded an employee, Juan Jose Urbina.

Two youths armed with pistols shot and wounded 2d Lt Pedro Castillo in a restaurant in the capital and then fled. The lieutenant was taken to the military hospital.

In the rural section of Managua known as Jocote Dulce, toward the south, a military patrol was attacked with bombs and gunfire by individuals whose faces were covered with handkerchiefs. There was a short but intense exchange of fire, after which the attackers fled without sustaining or causing casualties.

In the San Juan district in the capital, a young couple were injured in shooting by the military near the main offices of the National Bank of Nicaragua. The injured were Javier Sevilla and his girlfriend, Sabrina Abarca. They are now receiving medical attention in different hospitals.

In Leon, in the western part of the country, there were continuous bomb explosions and skirmishes on Saturday night. Jose Abraham Salines, who is suspected of being a guerrilla, was killed.

In the same city, Rader Pereira Resuto was killed when shot in the head by a guard at the Harinisa Company, owned by Economy Minister Roger Blandon. He repelled an attempted attack by three youths armed with pistols.

The hospital in Chinandega, also in western Nicaragua, yesterday received three bodies dressed in blue, believed to have been members of a guerrilla brigade which was active in that area and which had a confrontation with army units.

In the same department, estate owner Guillermo Lopez Montealegre managed to escape from several criminals who had held him hostage in an isolated spot for the past 3 days, demanding a ransom of 3 million cordobas ($428,571).

In Rivas Department, in the southern part of the republic, Mrs Rosa Rojas died and her young son was injured when National Guard troops were pursuing a sandinist group on the "San Carlos" estate, owned by a brother-in-law of assassinated newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. The estate is located beside the Cibalsa tourist hotel, close to the Pan-American Highway, which has been converted into a millitary garrison because of the emergency the government is facing.

SANDINIST OCCUPY MINING TOWN, KILL MINE MANAGER

PA121859Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1716 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (AFP)--It was reported here today that a Sandinist squad yesterday occupied a mining town in northwestern Nicaragua for several hours and then executed the manager of the mining company operating there. The group, 12 men and 2 women, entered the town of Santa Rosa del Penon, 150 km from Managua, and harangued the residents, accusing the gypsum mine owners of exploiting the workers by paying them low wages. Aterward, the rebels executed Porfirio Olivas, manager of the mine. It has been reported unofficially that President Anastasio Somoza has holdings in that industry.

This action was the most important in a new series of Sandinist attacks during the past few hours in various areas of the country. According to press reports, the Sandinists also occupied the town of Tisma, 25 km east of Managua, and set fire to the mayor's office, the military post and the property registration office. Another Sandinist squad robbed the offices of the government sewage service in Leon, 90 km to the west, and fled with $3,000.

The renewed anti-Somoza armed activity comes almost at the same time that OAS mediators William Bowdler of the United States and Alfredo Obiols Gomez of Guatemala should return to their countries. [as received] They will meet with Somoza today.

On his part, Alfonso Robelo, one of the main spokesmen of the Broad Opposition Front (FAO), said that he believes that the international mediation effort in Nicaragua has failed and is concluded.

FIRE IN PLAZA, DEATH OF TWO YOUTHS REPORTED

PA121900Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Filadelfo Aleman, the Radio Periodico Reloj correspondent in Managua, has reported that the bodies of two youths were found in Managua this morning. One of them was the son of the rector of the Center of Superior Studies of Managua. The other has not been identified yet.

Also this morning, a fire started in Plaza Espana, apparently set by the rebels.

Many arrests have been made today. Many of those arrested are youths who have been taken to the military prisons in the past few hours.

FSLN COMMUNIQUE REPORTS CLASHES WITH SOMOZIST, CONDECA FORCES

PA152142Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Jan 79 PA

[Communique issued by the Foreign Committee of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, dated 15 January 1979, to report on the status of the armed struggle in Nicaragua--read by Father Fernando Cardenal, place not given, recorded]

[Text] Sandinist [word indistinct] of the General Staff of the Carlos Fonseca Amador Northern Front note that in the fighting which began on 1 January at El Tular, Esteli Department, two soldiers of the Central American Defense Council [CONDECA] have been killed and that they have recovered for the people 14,000 lempiras, 10,000 Salvadoran colones and 32,000 quetzales.

The Sandinist forces also repelled the attacks of the infantry, artillery and air force of the National Guard and CONDECA from El Tular to Valle de las Ruedas, also in Esteli Department, and seized one 50-caliber machinegun and five Browning automatic rifles as well as a knapsack bearing the number 723 which contained, among other things, seven torn panties, which is evidence of the continuous raping of Nicaraguan peasant women by the undisciplined troops who carry the panties like trophies.

On 8 January, the Gen Pedro Altamirano column attacked the Somozist guard and the intervening CONDECA troops from La Laguna to Sanjuela, shooting down a helicopter. The Carlos Fonseca Amador Northern Front reports a total of 54 casualties among the Somozist and CONDECA troops and charges that the enemy troops have poisoned the waters of small creeks. Six casualties have been reported among Sandinist guerrillas, three of whom died in combat. The others occurred while a mine was being planted.

The presence of the [word indistinct] CONDECA through Guatemalan, Salvadoran and Honduran troops confirms the charges raised a few days ago by the Sandinist National Liberation Front's [FSLN] national leadership about the meeting held by Central American military dictators Romeo Lucas, Carlos Humberto Romero, Policarpo Paz and Anastasio Somoza. One of the decisions adopted was to give unlimited support to Somoza's dictatorship.

We denounce before the world the internationalization of the Nicaraguan conflict and the responsibility for such action borne by the governments and army chiefs of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala as well as the United States, which advocates and fosters such intervention while it tries to impose its formula of Somozism without Somoza through the ill-named mediation commission.

The General Staff of the Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front reports that on 9 January in Rivas Department, an attack was staged against the Somozist garrison at Punta Colon, on the banks of the great lake. The Sandinist columns were able to dismantle the National Guard camp, inflicting 13 casualties in dead and wounded in addition to other casualties not yet accounted for as a result of the disbanding of the Somozist guards, many of whom drowned while trying to wade into the lake's waters.

On Sunday, 14 January, guerrilla squadrons of the same Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front attacked Pueblo Nuevo in Rio San Juan Department, facing the Solentiname archipelago The number of casualties suffered by the enemy is still unknown.

These harassment tactics are part of the armed Sandinist offensive that we have carried out since October 1977 and which is now bourgeoning in our country's cities, countryside and mountains. It will culminate with the overthrow of the Somozist dictatorship through insurrection.

Against the imperialist maneuver, Sandinist insurrection. Out with the CONDECA from Nicaragua. Long live the Sandinist unity. Death to Somozism. A free fatherland or death.

[Signed] Foreign Committee, FSLN

WORKERS STAGE HUNGER STRIKE; FSLN ATTACKS GARRISON

PA160227Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0026 GMT 16 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 15 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaragua's difficult and violent situation intensified today with a hunger strike by 18 unemployed health workers who are representing more than 2,800 members of the Federation of Health Workers (FETSALUD). The workers are demanding that they be rehired at hospitals and clinics lacking personnel. They are holding the hunger strike at the Red Cross headquarters in Managua. The workers' leaders charged that the government unjustly dismissed them as a result of the unsuccessful national strike in August 1978.

Meanwhile, as today advanced, there were reports of new clashes between the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) and Somoza government forces in southern Nicaragua, near the border with Costa Rica. The rebel columns claim that they have the National Guard garrison of Cardenas under seige. It is a strategic location on the banks of Lake Nicaragua. They have also taken credit for downing a Nicaraguan Air Force (FAN) plane.

The Managua government has maintained its accusation regarding the entrance of those insurgent forces from Costa Rican territory and has threatened to close the border at Penas Blancas if those attacks continue.

In Managua and in almost all of the cities in the interior, the guerrilla attacks, the army's actions and repression and the clashes between the rebels and the soldiers have left a toll of at least 10 dead and 12 wounded.

From the region of Achuapa, in northwestern Nicaragua, where a vast guerrilla operation is said to be underway, it was reported today that 30,000 cordobas ($4,285) were stolen from the rural branch of the Banco Nacional de Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, more than 100 bullet holes were found on the vehicle in which a Managua couple was traveling when it was attacked by a military patrol.

GENERAL EVERTZ SAYS ARMY IN CONTROL OF SOUTHERN ZONE

PA160348Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0053 GMT 16 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Rivas, Nicaragua, 15 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--A Nicaraguan Army general said today that the National Guard has maintained control over the southern zone and denied that columns of the Sandinist Front (FSLN) are besieging the "Cardenas" garrison near the Costa Rican Border.

Brig Gen Gonzalo Evertz, the zone commander, refuted a war bulletin released by phone today from Costa Rica by priest Ernesto Cardenal to the local media in Managua. The high-ranking officer, loyal to the government of Gen Anastasio Somoza, admitted, however, to new attacks on Sunday and today by the Sandinist international brigade from Costa Rican territory. He said that during an attempt to enter Nicaraguan territory yesterday, three guerrillas were killed, including a youth known only as "Santiago," presumably the leader of the guerrilla group.

The Cardenas port outpost, on the banks of Lake Nicaragua near the Costa Rican border, was attacked today but the mortar fire fell short of the target by 1/2 mile. "They have to shoot from long range as they fear a direct conflict with the National Guard," Evertz added.

The military chief said the army is not interested in keeping bodies. He was referring to the request to relase the body of guerrilla Priest Gaspar Laviani, who fell in combat on 10 December on the border during an attack by the Sandinist Front.

The Nicaraguan general confirmed the death of housemaid Maria Luisa Rojas de Zapata during yesterday's clash with an armed group which had advanced near the Pan-American Highway.

The incident took place in crossfire near the "Cibalsa" hotel, occupied by the army. In the action, a son of the housemaid was wounded. It could not be determined if he was wounded by shots fired by the National Guardsmen or the guerrillas, Evertz concluded.

FSLN RECOVERS BODIES OF SLAIN GUERRILLAS, PRIEST

PA152356Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1854 GMT 15 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 15 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] claimed today, Monday, to have recovered the body of Spanish guerrilla Priest Gaspar Garcia Laviana from his grave in the mountainous south eastern region of Nicaragua.

A communique issued by the "Foreign Committee" of this guerrilla organization also claims that the bodies of Jaime Torres and Luis Arroyo Ugarte were recovered. They were members of the guerrilla column led by Father Garcia Laviana which clashed with the Nicaraguan National Guard last 10 December.

It was reported that the body of the guerrilla priest will be taken to Spain by Priests Jose Antonio Sanjinez--a Spanish clergyman expelled from Nicaragua some time ago--and Sandinist Priest Ernesto Cardenal Martinez. Father Sanjinez was also a member of the guerrilla column led by Father Garcia Laviana.

According to the FSLN report, the bodies were recovered while a rebel column harassed the National Guard forces stationed in the El Disparate region. Located in this region is a place called El Infierno, where Father Garcia Laviana fell in combat against the Nicaraguan National Guard.

Since the Spanish guerrilla priest's death became known, the Spanish Embassy in Nicaragua, at the request of the Sacred Heart of Jesus missionary order, tried to organize an expedition to the Nicaraguan southern border to recover Garcia Laviana's body. However, the operation was not carried out because the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry believed it could not guarantee the lives of the persons involved in the operation. The only thing that could be done was to place a cross on the improvised tomb in the mountains where the body of the guerrilla priest, who was once the parish priest of the Nicaraguan port of San Juan del Sur on the Pacific Coast, lay.

FORMER OFFICER DISCUSSES NATIONAL GUARD ABUSES

PA122004Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1806 GMT 12 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--A former high-ranking Nicaraguan officer said today that the spectacular blow dealt to the army by Commander Cero (Eden Pastora) last August when he took the National Palace in Managua almost set off a mutiny in the National Guard. The bold operation was commended in an exclusive interview with radio newsman Oscar Leonardo Montalvan of Radio Mil by Lt Col Bernardino Larios, who was recently discharged from the army at the end of a court-martial for plotting against the Anastasio Somoza regime.

Larios said the Sandinist operation had a psychological effect on the soldiers who wanted to advance on the palace upon hearing about the deaths of soldiers and officers who were guarding the building where deputies were holding a regular session of Congress.

"Once the situation inside the building was under control, I think it would have been more elegant and effective for Commander Cero to have disarmed the soldiers and freed them," the military expert said.

The former National Guard officer disclosed that he had been abused and tortured during his imprisonment in the security office and the Model Prison, that he was held incommunicado and beaten in a dark room and forced to do exercises which were feared in the military academy because of the effects and prolonged pain they cause.

In the radio interview he expressed his opinion about the evils afflicting the Nicaraguan Army, previous disclosures of which had led to his arrest, trial and discharge from the guard after 25 years of service. Lieutenant Colonel Larios said that the controversial Basic Infantry Training School (EEBI), which is commanded by Maj Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero, the son of the president, is an army within an army. "His soldiers and officers receive better treatment than that given to other branches of the military and often higher ranking officers refrain from giving them orders as they are considered special," he said.

He said that officers and soldiers have serious health problems and low salaries. They are not properly trained, have management problems and are politically manipulated. "I discussed these problems with several of my superiors and even with President Somoza as commander in chief of the armed forces. I invited him to visit the barracks to see the situation personally, but surely his many obligations prevented him from going," he added.

In his opinion, these problems persist because the staff and especially the inspector general, who should solve them, do not do so, and when a problem is solved it is done paternalistically, as if it were a favor and not an obligation.

The army's inspector general is Maj Gen Jose R. Somoza, the president's brother.

Larios is certain that unhappiness caused by the situation is prevalent in the military but nobody dares to speak for fear of the consequences.

In addition to these problems, enlisted men now face increasing threats by Sandinist guerrillas as part of the popular reaction against the existing government system. The former National Guard officer said that he respected the young Sandinists as men who expose their lives to defend an ideal, regardless of whether they are militarymen or civilians.

He also said it was time that the war to the death between the Sandinists and the soldiers ended. It only fomented hatred, he noted. We are all part of the people and this situation leads to an increasing danger of communism, a danger which exists every place where there is bad government.

Larios said the repression unleashed by the Nicaraguan Army against several cities in the country taken by guerrillas last September was unfortunate and tragic but noted that the responsibility is always the chief's and not the soldiers'. Thousands of youths and entire families of Leon, Matagalpa, Chinandega, Masaya, Esteli, Diriamba and Managua died at that time, many after having been arrested by military patrols.

Larios revealed in the interview that he had been in contact with youth leaders to advise them against a continuation of the bloodshed in the country, which hurts everyone, but he did not have an opportunity to follow up his contacts because he was arrested.

He also said that he believes in international mediation as the proper road to solve Nicaragua's political problem but that mediators move too slowly. He hopes the day will come soon when the army and the people will embrace in the streets of Managua celebrating the conciliation and opening the road to progress.

COLONEL CALLS FOR ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL SITUATION

PA160432Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Nicaraguan Col Guillermo Mendieta Chavez has said that there is fear and hatred of the National Guard in Nicaragua. Defying the National Guard leadership's view that there should not be any debate within the National Guard, Colonel Mendieta Chavez said today that a calm and objective analysis of the country's situation should be promoted in the ranks of the military.

He stated in a public letter that it is no longer possible to remain silent and impassive in the face of the constant cries of so many mothers who, without distinction of parties or uniforms, mourn the deaths of their sons, sons who are guardsmen, guerrillas, peasants or officials, but all with the same common trait--sons of Nicaraguan mothers.

Last week, Lt Col Bernardino Larios, now discharged from the army, criticized the National Guard after being released following a trial in which he was charged with being the leader of a plot against the Somoza government.

After indicating that his analysis will provoke various reactions, Colonel Mendieta Chavez said that he believes he might even be charged with disloyalty by the political group that wants to keep the National Guard in the blindest, most complete and [words indistinct] on the basis of the misunderstood prohibition on discussion which has made it easier to decrease our dignity and pride.

PEREZ HERRERO RECEIVES SOVIET DELEGATION

FL160034Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jan 79 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Antonio Perez Herrero has received the delegation of the USSR Academy of Sciences which is visiting our country. Attending the meeting for the Soviet side were Yuriy Ovchinnikov, vice president of the institution in charge of the section of chemical-biological sciences, who heads the delegation, and other members.

Cuba and the USSR Academy of Sciences today signed a protocol on scientific cooperation in various fields of biology and chemistry. The document, which was signed in Havana, grants special importance to the development of conversations in the fields of biophysics, organic chemistry and molecular and genetic biology. The two sides expressed interest in strengthening cooperation between their respective institutions by developing joint research work and interchanging cadres.

ROCA RECEIVES NEW FINNISH AMBASSADOR

FL160136Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Blas Roca Calderio, president of the People's Government National Assembly and vice president of the Council of State, this morning received Mr Jussi Montonen, who presented his credentials accrediting him as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland. Comrade Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, minister of foreign relations, participated in the ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony the ambassador and his entourage went to the Plaza de la Revolucion to lay a floral wreath at the Jose Marti monument.

AMBASSADORS VISIT CDR NATIONAL DIRECTORATE

FL152231Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2206 GMT 15 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The ambassadors of the People's Republic of Mongolia and the People's Democratic Republic of Laos to Cuba this morning visited the National Directorate of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR]. Mongolian Ambassador (Sorchinin Rezen) and Laos Ambassador (Kol Shanden) were received by Jorge Lezcano Perez, member of the PCC Central Committee and the Council of State and CDR national coordinator. The CDR National Directorate this afternoon was also visited by Boyko Dimitrov, ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to our country. On behalf of the CDR National Executive Secretariat, Jorge Lezcano thanked the diplomats from Mongolia, Laos and Bulgaria for the courtesy visit they paid to his organization.

RAMON CASTRO TOURS IRAQI AGRICULTURAL INSTALLATIONS

FL151131Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Ramon Castro Ruz, Cuban national work hero and director of the Valle de Picadura livestock breeding farm, has met with Muhammad Sadiq, secretary general of agriculture and agrarian reform of the Iraqi Autonomous Province of Irbil. During the meeting, Castro Ruz and his delegation were briefed on the work being done in Irbil's agricultural sector. The Cuban delegation later went to the northern zone of that Iraqi province and toured the installations of the National General Agriculture Company and various tourist centers located in the municipality of Salah ad-din.

NEW CONSTITUTION TO AFFECT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

FL121415Y Georgetown Guyana CHRONICLE in English 4 Jan 79 p 1 FL

[Text] The first sitting of the National Assembly for the new year will be held today when the Local Authorities (Postponement of Elections) Bill 1978 and the Guyana Forestry Commission Bill 1978 will be presented and read for the first time.

The Local Authorities (Postponement of Elections) Bill will be tabled by Economic Development and Co-operatives Minister Cde. Desmond Hoyte who is also responsible for local government.

According to the explanatory memorandum to this bill, approval for the further postponement of local government elections is being sought in view of "the decision of the Guyanese people to devise for themselves a new constitution in conformity with their historical experiences, their cultural heritage and the national ethos".

Cde. Hoyte also stated in the explanatory memorandum that "the constitution will inevitably have far-reaching implications for the reorganisation and structure of the local government system".

The four-clause bill which also contained provisions for the validation of the bona fide acts of local authorities and councillors and the election of mayors, deputy mayors, chairmen and deputy-chairmen of local authorities for 1979, is expected to generate spirited debate since the opposition PPP has made repeated requests that local government elections be held promptly.

The second bill seeks to set up a "body corporate" to be known as the Guyana Forestry Commission. This commission will take over the functions of the Forest Department whose officers and other employees will become officers and employees of the commission. It also makes provision for the amendment of existing laws relating to forestry and the marketing of timber. It will be tabled by Energy and Natural Resources Minister Cde. Hubert Jack.

PPP'S JAGAN SAYS HE IS 'MOSCOW PUPPET'

WA151315Y Georgetown Guyana CHRONICLE in English 9 Jan 79 p 1 WA

[Text] Opposition leader and leader of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) Dr Cheddi Jagan said yesterday that he is a "Moscow puppet" and that he is not ashamed of being such a puppet. Dr Jagan, who recently returned from the Soviet Union where he received a medal--the Order of Friendship--stated this in Parliament during debate on the Local Authorities (Postponement of Elections) Bill 1978.

"Moscow stands for socialism, democracy, proletarian internationalism," said Dr Jagan, adding that he had no apology to make for his attitude of being a Moscow puppet.

In his 45-minute contribution to the debate Dr Jagan took time out to hurl a series of accusations at the ruling People's National Congress [PNC] government and pointed to a number of allegations being made in the international press about developments in Guyana. One PNC back-bencher interrupted by pointing out that it was the same international press which has been referring to him as a "Moscow puppet" and by asking what was his response to those allegations.